

Washington State Patrol Media Release

Chief Ronal W. Serpas



Office of the State Fire Marshal *State Fire Marshal Mary Corso*

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For Immediate Release
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Fire Sprinkler Foils Arson Attempt in Assisted Living Facility Fire

Chief Ronal W. Serpas announced today that on January 5, 2004, a single fire sprinkler head extinguished a suspected arson fire in the state-licensed Forest Manor Retirement Center.

When firefighters from Lewis County District 5 arrived at the scene of the 7:30 p.m. fire, they found the fire had been extinguished and that none of the 39 residents of the two-story facility had suffered any injuries.

The fire, which was confined to a first floor resident room, resulted in fire and water damage estimated at \$1,000. As the result of an investigation by the State Fire Marshal's Office, a 34-year-old female suspect was taken into custody January 6, 2004, and transported to the Lewis County Corrections Center.

"This is yet another example of the value of fire sprinklers, where you work or where you or your loved ones live. They're instant firefighters, on duty in your home or business 24-7," said State Fire Marshal Mary Corso.

The Office of the State Fire Marshal is a bureau of the Washington State Patrol, providing fire and life safety services to the citizens of Washington State, including inspections of state-licensed facilities, plan review of school construction projects, licensing of fire sprinkler contractors and pyrotechnic operators, training Washington State's firefighters, and collecting emergency response data. For additional information, you may visit our Web page at www.wa.gov/wsp and then click on "State Fire Marshal."

For more information on fire sprinklers, please contact your local fire department or the Office of the State Fire Marshal at (360) 753-0400.

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